

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0008859		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	11/20/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/01/2011
<b>Decision Date:</b>	01/27/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	07/15/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	08/08/2013

### HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to a physician reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Orthopedic Surgery and is licensed to practice in California. He/she has been in active clinical practice for more than five years and is currently working at least 24 hours a week in active practice. The physician reviewer was selected based on his/her clinical experience, education, background, and expertise in the same or similar specialties that evaluate and/or treat the medical condition and disputed items/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

### CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

The patient is a 47-year-old gentleman who sustained an injury to his left hip in a work-related accident on 4/1/11. The most recent clinical orthopedic assessment (dated 7/8/13) indicated ongoing complaints of left hip pain with nocturnal complaints, and a physical examination demonstrated restricted left hip range of motion. A previous MRI report of 2012 demonstrated advanced osteoarthritis to the joint with impingement and labral degeneration. There was noted to be moderate to severe chondral change. The extent of prior conservative measures rendered to date is unclear.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

The Final Determination was based on decisions for the disputed items/services set forth below:

**The request for total left hip replacement:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines for arthroplasty.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS Guidelines are silent on this issue. When looking at Official Disability Guidelines criteria, arthroplasty of the hip is reasonable when all conservative measures have been exhausted and other reasonable surgical options have been considered.

Specific clinical criteria indicate that in regard to age, effort should be made to avoid hip replacement with individuals who are less than 50-years-old; surgical intervention is not typically supported with the exception of a "shattered hip" when reconstruction is not an option. The clinical records in this case fail to document a body mass index (guidelines recommend that it is less than 35) and state the claimant to be at an age of 47 years. More importantly, the extent of conservative care to include an intra-articular steroid injection has not been documented within the clinical records. The request cannot be supported as medically necessary.

**The request for an assistant surgeon:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

**Decision rationale:** Since the primary procedure is not medically necessary, none of the associated services are medically necessary

**The request for inpatient stay LOS:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

**Decision rationale:** Since the primary procedure is not medically necessary, none of the associated services are medically necessary.